

Weekly Column for August 23, 2007

The City of Troy is packed with activity this weekend. From groundbreakings to new students, to baseball games, there is something for everyone.

Before we get to that, I want to thank everyone that was involved in the ChowderFest last Saturday. It was an overwhelming turnout, and certainly exceeded the expectations of many. You can be sure that planning is already underway for the 2008 version.

Onto this week. Tomorrow is the makeup date for the Mayor's Cup Golf Tournament, which was canceled after a deluge of rain hammered the region two weeks ago. Hopefully the rain will stay away tomorrow. At least the temperatures will be up near August norms, it has felt like October this week. The money raised from the tournament will benefit the Frear Park Conservancy.

Tomorrow evening is the annual welcoming of Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute freshmen at Riverfront Park. Things have changed a lot in the past four years downtown. I think we have a better opportunity to convince them to enjoy the rest of the City, outside of the RPI campus. Certainly we have more work to do, but we've laid the groundwork for a pretty good argument. I always look forward to greeting the kids and talking with them about what Troy can offer them.

These are the people we need to convince to stay here after they graduate. Tomorrow is our first impression day.

Saturday we will be distributing book bags with the Redeeming Love Gospel Church. This year, the church applied for, and was successful in receiving, a Community Development Block Grant for its project. The goal is to help low income families get ready for the school year by filling book bags with supplies they can use throughout the year. It's a great project, and I am happy that we were able to help out.

Sunday morning RPI will break ground on its East Campus athletic village. This is an ambitious project to say the least, though I am sure that when it is completed, it will not only upgrade the facilities at the university, but also add another interesting dynamic to the City of Troy.

On top of all that activity the Tri-City ValleyCats have a home stand this weekend with the Aberdeen Ironbirds. Troy native Joe Mahoney, who was drafted by the Baltimore Orioles this past June, will be returning to Troy as a professional. It should be a very exciting time. I will try my best to make it up there for Sunday's game, and will definitely be around on Monday.

There is a lot happening this weekend, and I didn't even mention that somewhat famous race in Saratoga on Saturday. Have a great time!

Harry J Tutunjian
Mayor of Troy